

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Unfortunately, freedom of the press seems to belong to those who own one. The sight of large corporations such as Sinclair using their ownership of media to attempt to influence a presidential election is chilling. This is reminiscent of government control of the newspaper Pravda in the old Soviet Union. This IS NOT how a representative democracy is supposed to work.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.